

EXHIBIT NO. JTX-026 evid.
CAUSE NO. 3:22cv0734-DPJ-HSO-LHS
WITNESS _____
CLERK: SHONÉ POWELL

FEB 26 2024

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
Condice Cane, REPORTER

**The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021**

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

**TRANSCRIPT OF AUDIO-RECORDED
PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
STANDING JOINT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
AUGUST 11, 2021
ITTA BENE, MISSISSIPPI**

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 2

1 MR. BECKETT: Okay, gentlemen. Uh, I know there
2 will be a few more people probably come in if we get
3 started, but, uh, we're scheduled to begin at 6:00 and
4 since we're broadcasting this and doing some other
5 things, I want to go ahead and get started. A coup- --
6 just a couple of formalities before we have our -- our
7 [inaudible] introduction.

8 Uh, just a reminder that this joint committee
9 holds public hearings to receive suggestions and
10 recommendations on how the -- the Mississippi
11 Legislature should redistrict itself and its four
12 congressional districts. Uh, during the course of the
13 hearing, um, as chair, I will -- I will offer members
14 of the public an opportunity to, uh, address the
15 committee and to give -- to give statements.

16 And to the committee about the upcoming
17 redistricting effort, um, [inaudible] we try to get
18 members of the public a free opportunity to say what
19 they wish, uh, in cases where it appears that they're
20 going to be many persons who are to speak we li- -- we
21 limit their time. And, um, as -- as to what time we
22 impose will -- will be up to the chair and depending
23 on how many persons, uh, want to speak.

24 And, uh, you know, at -- at this time as, uh, I
25 want to call as called -- at -- at this time as chair

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 3

1 I would like to call the meeting of the public -- this
2 public hearing of the joint reapportionment committee
3 and joint congressional redistrict committee to order
4 and ask our council to call the roll of the members
5 present.

6 MALE 1: Mr. Beckett.

7 MR. BECKETT: Here.

8 MALE 1: Mr. Blackness. Mr. Brown. Mr. Eubanks.

9 Mr. [Inaudible].

10 MALE 2: Here.

11 MALE 1: Mr. Mango. Mr. Reed.

12 MR. REED: Here.

13 MALE 1: Mr. Shanks.

14 MR. SHANKS: Here.

15 MALE 1: Mr. Taylor. Mr. White. Mr. Kirby.

16 MR. KIRBY: Here.

17 MALE 1: Mr. Brian.

18 MR. BRIAN: Here.

19 MALE 1: Mr. Debar [ph]. Mr. Perkins. Mr. Hops.

20 MR. HOPS: Here.

21 MALE 1: Mr. Parker. Mr. Simmons.

22 MR. SIMMONS: Here.

23 MALE 1: Mr. Tate. Mr. [inaudible]. And Mr.

24 Williams. Thank you very much.

25 MR. BECKETT: All right. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 4

1 I don't -- I don't see any members [inaudible] came in
2 late.

3 Just as a reminder, uh, we're -- we're not
4 calling roll because we're required to have a quorum.
5 This is not -- not a meeting that requires that, but
6 we're simply doing it so that we'll have a record of
7 who's present. And so I want to -- I want to thank
8 each one of these members for their time.

9 At this time, we're -- we're here in this really
10 -- really a nice facility here and -- and, uh, look
11 thank -- we want to thank the president for making
12 this available for us to use.

13 Uh, we try to use our public facilities, um, one
14 because being -- being a state agency, uh, I think
15 that's good. But also it gives an opportunity to
16 showcase the different things on our campus. So Mr.
17 Parson, we'd love for you to -- to say a few words if
18 you want to.

19 MR. PARSON: Thank you. Chairman. Members of the
20 committee. Uh, welcome. Thank you all again for being
21 here supporting, uh, our university [inaudible] state
22 and doing the out- -- outstanding work [inaudible]. I
23 did just want to take an opportunity to thank you all
24 for all the continuing support that [inaudible].

25 And every time I get, uh, an opportunity to speak

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 5

1 I always start by saying it's a beautiful day to be at
2 the Mississippi Valley State University. So we truly,
3 truly do appreciate you all being here [inaudible].
4 The one thing that we have at the university today is
5 really a, uh, blessed day for one to have you all here
6 today. But also today was the day that our freshmen
7 are moving on campus. So we're really moving the
8 university forward.

9 And we know that we couldn't do that if it wasn't
10 for all the support that you all were giving us to be
11 able to do that. Here at the university we have eight-
12 word vision. Those eight words are one goal, one team,
13 one Valley in motion.

14 And it's opportunities like this to share and
15 experience that we know we are truly in motion. So
16 again, on behalf of Mississippi Valley State
17 University, welcome, and I know you all will really
18 have a very productive meeting. So thanks.

19 MR. BECKETT: All right. Thank you very much. Um,
20 tonight is our -- we have a unique pleasure. It's not
21 very often that -- that we have our, uh, one of our
22 United States Congressman in our -- in our audience.
23 And Congressman Thompson we thank you for being here
24 and we want to offer you a chance to say a few words
25 if you care to.

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 6

1 MR. THOMPSON: Well, I do. [Inaudible] public
2 hearing [inaudible].

3 MR. BECKETT: Is -- the tapes are rolling and --
4 and so --

5 MR. THOMPSON: Oh, okay.

6 MR. BECKETT: The -- the record is being kept
7 right now so.

8 MR. THOMPSON: Well, thank you very much
9 [inaudible] standing joint committee. Uh, welcome to
10 the second district. Uh, we brought [inaudible] with
11 me today. If you noticed when you got out your car.

12 Uh, it was the first thing he said, whoa it's
13 warm out here. Uh, so that's [inaudible]. Uh,
14 [inaudible] the second district because you know, uh,
15 I've recommended it for about 28 years. And I know
16 [inaudible] for quite a while.

17 Uh, there are a couple of things I'd like to
18 share with you as it relates to this district. Uh,
19 it's important you look at demographics of the state,
20 uh, and to allow, um, [inaudible] the right to pick a
21 congressperson, a Senate representative of their
22 choice is absolutely important. Please don't split
23 communities' interests up to the extent that you can
24 try not to split precincts. Uh, we only have two, uh,
25 counties in my entire 26 counties that I represent.

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 7

1 The split I have for the most part, whole
2 counties. Uh, when I started, I had more fractional
3 counties, than I did whole counties.

4 And I've seen it morph over time that now, uh,
5 people [inaudible] county don't have to ask who that
6 congressperson is because they only have one. Uh,
7 people in -- in, uh, other counties [inaudible] that
8 have that other county. So it's important, uh, that
9 you try not to split communities, try not to split
10 voting precincts.

11 And we are one of few states that lost
12 population. So you're going to have to make some
13 adjustments. So when you look at those adjustments
14 [inaudible], can we make adjustments on the
15 congressional side with as minimal amount of, um,
16 statistical upheaval as we possibly can.

17 Uh, I personally think you can, uh, I have
18 [inaudible], uh, Hans County. Uh, if you look at Hans
19 County, uh, just give me Hans County and -- and you're
20 pretty close to [inaudible].

21 I live in Hans County. I live all my life, uh, in
22 Hans County, so he could fix it real quick, uh, and
23 everybody would be happy. But I -- I look to the- --
24 these hearings [inaudible], but I think communities of
25 interest is [inaudible] important.

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 8

1 Uh, the Delta, the second district [inaudible].

2 Uh, we are one of the more agricultural districts, uh,
3 in America. Uh, some of you saw, uh, what happens here
4 between the cotton, corn, and soybeans.

5 Uh, I even bring people down and [inaudible], uh,
6 now my Christian friends tell me when I take them to
7 the casino, uh, the foods good. Uh, so I just leave it
8 at that. But, uh, it's our second income producer, uh,
9 for the district. So [inaudible] is, uh, a significant
10 revenue producer for the district. Apart from that,
11 this is the public's, uh, venue, uh, uh, uh, for you
12 to hear from. It's an opportunity, uh, for people to
13 get their positions through.

14 Uh, I don't even look at the district, uh, from a
15 restful standpoint. It's not nearly as difficult
16 perhaps as some of the other districts. So, um, that's
17 about it. I'm happy to be here. Um, uh, I applaud
18 public hearing.

19 Uh, uh, I applaud the ability for the public to
20 come and have a say so on the public's business. So
21 again, I compliment you for it. Thank you very much.

22 MR. BECKETT: Thank you very much. Um, also, uh,
23 we have several other members of the Mississippi
24 House's Senate that aren't on the committee that are
25 here. Uh, I would welcome them to introduce themselves

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 9

1 at -- at this time [inaudible].

2 SPEAKER: Hey. [Inaudible] from the Mississippi
3 Delta. [Inaudible].

4 SPEAKER: [Inaudible] district [inaudible].

5 MR. HIMES: John Himes [ph], District 50
6 Washington Bolivar [ph], [inaudible] County.

7 MR. CLARK: Brian Clark. House District 47,
8 [inaudible] counties.

9 MR. ROSEBUD: Tracy Rosebud [ph]. District 30,
10 representing portions of Tallahassee and sunflower
11 [inaudible] counties.

12 MR. ANTHONY: [Inaudible] Anthony. District 31.
13 Bolivar Sunflower Washington and Humphreys County.

14 MS. VICTORIA: Victoria [Inaudible]. Lake
15 Madison, [inaudible] County.

16 MR. BECKETT: All right. I -- I think that's
17 everyone. I -- I thank you all for doing that. In
18 addition to these individuals, I want to thank our
19 staff for -- for making this possible for all the --
20 the work they did in preparing to just have this
21 meeting live, but also to broadcast the meeting and --
22 and all the work that they're going to do going into
23 the future.

24 Um, you know, the, um, you know, uh, I just --
25 for an opening statement before we actually get

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 10

1 started with the -- with the public comment.

2 Yeah. I just want to say -- to say that our staff
3 has gone through the minutes of the hearings, um, from
4 the hearings from the 2010 public hearings that we had
5 and the current ones, just to try to anticipate a few
6 of the questions and concerns that the public might
7 have.

8 So that we might answer those just to provide
9 some information as to why we're here right now and
10 what we're -- and what we're doing. And I want to -- I
11 want to thank them for doing that. And I think it -- I
12 think it's really, really good information, uh, that -
13 - that will help. Uh, you know, a few other things
14 that -- that are -- then I asked is you iif why -- why
15 are we redistricting?

16 Yeah. I have people all the time. I had a call
17 today about- -- about that while I was on my way up
18 here. You know, why -- why do you need to redistrict?
19 .

20 And, you know, uh, you know, I just need to point
21 out that both the federal constitutional requirements
22 of one person, one vote re- -- requires redistrict.
23 Uh, bo- -- both our congressional districts and our
24 legislative districts every 10 years following the
25 census.

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 11

1 Additionally, section 254 of our constitution of
2 1890 requires that we redistrict the legislature. So
3 we- -- were doing redistricting because it's required.

4 Uh -- uh -- when -- when we will commence
5 redistricting, when we will commence -- we have
6 started redistricting. We started this really with
7 these series of meetings, but before even -- before
8 that the formation of -- of this committee back
9 earlier in the summer.

10 But, uh, we -- we've started in earnest, you
11 know, and, and so, you know, because of the qualifying
12 deadlines, uh, of next year, our, our efforts of
13 congressional redistricting will come first.

14 And we -- uh, and will occur during this fall. So
15 that -- so that might be finished before it's time to
16 qualify. Um, then we'll begin working on -- on the
17 legislature and we will do that during the months of
18 the 2022 legislative session.

19 All right. But, you know, because of population
20 shifts, we're going to face many challenges and I just
21 want to make that clear to the public. That -- that
22 we're -- that they're going to be many challenges.
23 You're going to have parts of the state that have
24 gained population like -- like Mississippi, Gulf
25 Coast, and maybe the Northwest corner of the state and

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 12

1 -- and a few other areas.

2 Then you're going to have areas like those in
3 Lauderdale County or -- or [inaudible]. And over here,
4 you have areas of the state [inaudible] population.
5 Both scenarios, as you all know, cause problems.

6 Because they have their own -- their own set of
7 difficulties that -- that we'll have to -- have to
8 deal with because as our districts have lost
9 population or the counties have lost populations,
10 these maps that are in front of you, um, you know, has
11 the county populations on it.

12 You could -- you could see that, um, that we've
13 lost, uh, uh, a great deal of, uh, uh, people in
14 certain places and gaining people in other places. So
15 there will be some movement, um, of district lines.

16 You know, so why are we presenting census
17 estimates at this hearing? And the simple fact is, you
18 know, because of delays, uh, in producing the census,
19 the actual numbers we use in redistricting are not yet
20 available.

21 And that- -- that's the simple fact if we had the
22 official numbers, we would be using the official
23 numbers, but this is not the first time that we've
24 used estimates. And these estimates, there are no
25 districts who are going to be -- no district lines are

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 13

1 going to be drawn from these estimates, but they are
2 helpful in showing us what areas have gained
3 population and what areas have lost population.

4 So we can begin, uh, working on that and thinking
5 about, um, what needs to be done. Um, and so these
6 census estimates give us a good indication of -- of
7 where our challenges are and -- and -- and like I
8 said, they've been used in -- in past hearings. You
9 know, how many -- how -- how many members of the
10 public participate in this process?

11 We- -- we've been asked that question, and
12 there's several ways that the public can participate.
13 One is by -- by discussing their concerns at this
14 hearing or our series.

15 We're having nine of these public hearings around
16 the state so hopefully they'll be convenient to our
17 voters. Um, and so you have to have an opportunity to
18 -- to express their opinion at -- at the hearing.

19 You know, we're -- we're here to hear your
20 concerns. We're not here, we're not going to be
21 answering questions and things like that, but we're
22 here to hear your concerns, um, this, uh, this
23 evening, we'll -- we'll listen to any matter that you
24 wish to bring to our attention about how and -- and
25 where we're drawing congressional and legislative

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 14

1 district lines.

2 Um, you know, we -- we -- we let them -- the --
3 let -- let members of the public know that -- that
4 they must sign a card. I think you were asked to s- --
5 to sign an index card, if you wanted to speak. We --
6 we would like for all members to sign in and there's -
7 - as -- as you come in and that's simply so that we'll
8 have a record of -- of who all attended the meetings.

9 But -- but if you would like to speak, we -- we
10 need you to sign a card because then they're going to
11 give it to me and I'll have it -- have it to call --
12 call on people. Um, and so if you change your mind, if
13 you ha- -- if you decide you want to speak just let
14 the staff know, and -- and they'll get -- they'll get
15 your card.

16 Um, you know, you can submit suggestions to the
17 committee in writing or by email, uh, and you can take
18 advantage of the opportunity to use the committees'
19 public, uh, access, computer terminals. And, um, you
20 know, it -- it, and, uh, and, uh, you know, what kind
21 of concerns are -- are -- are do we expect to hear?

22 We -- honestly, we want to hear just whatever
23 your concerns are, just -- just whatever -- wh- --
24 whatever is important to you. Um, in the past, we've
25 heard things, uh, ranging from voting rights act

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 15

1 concerns.

2 We've heard about splitting precincts. We've
3 heard about splitting municipalities. Um, and we've
4 heard about, uh, districts being odd shaped. We've
5 heard about splitting communities of interest.

6 So you're -- you're probably not going to come up
7 with something that the committee hadn't heard, but
8 still it's your right to express, uh, the concern- --
9 the concerns that you have have it just a reminder
10 that the rules of the House, um, govern joint
11 committees' meetings and -- and such matters will be
12 ha- -- any matters will be handled according to the
13 House rules. You know, um, a question that is on the
14 handouts.

15 This is, but I'm re- -- I'll repeat this for
16 those who are watching and -- and -- and don't have
17 the benefit of having the handouts.

18 So occasionally you may think, you know, why is
19 he saying that we have it in front of us, but there
20 are people who aren't here. And so, you know, how can
21 members of the public contact maybe to provide
22 information, um, [inaudible] book time on the public
23 access portal.

24 And members can, um, members of the public should
25 be advised, like it's -- they send US mail to Ted

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 16

1 Booth, Staff Council Joint Reapportionment Committee
2 PO Box 1204, Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1204. Or you
3 can send an email to ted.booth@peer and that's p-e-e-
4 r, uh, .ms.gov. And please be -- uh, please provide
5 information to staffs of the address, phone number, so
6 we can follow up.

7 Um, please don't just send them something, asking
8 questions, and then not provide them with any way to
9 get back with you. So if -- if you put your contact
10 information that -- that will help. Uh, public access
11 for congressional reduces [inaudible] will commence
12 following the delivery of the final PL94-171 data,
13 which should arrive at the close of September. So we
14 hope to get that information September 30th.

15 And, uh, I don't see any reason that won't
16 happen. We've been reassured multiple times that would
17 happen. Um, and so the -- the public access will s- --
18 will start, and will start at that time and will last
19 for three weeks.

20 Um, for the legislature, it will occur after
21 January 1, 2022, and last for three weeks. Now, um,
22 and so, uh, I don't think anyone else is - is -- has
23 come in, that would -- that would need to -- need to -
24 - to recognize. Do I have any member of the committee
25 that would like to make a statement?

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 17

1 MALE: Uh, uh, I'll make one if I may. Thank you,
2 Mr. Chairman, uh, first off, as you notice, uh, we --
3 we have several people that aren't here, they're on
4 the committee. Of course, uh, for other [inaudible]
5 it's a long way from the coast for some of these
6 people that are up here. And -- and as the chairman
7 stated, we're having meetings all over the state.

8 So, uh, but we also have one that's just, uh,
9 just getting over COVID and decided not to come in.
10 And, uh, then of course, Senator Frazier just had back
11 surgery.

12 So, um, but all these, uh, members that aren't
13 here have texts, saying that they are watching and,
14 uh, and listening. And therefore we're here for
15 [inaudible]. And, uh, thank you for letting us be here
16 tonight.

17 MR. BECKETT: All right. Uh, one of the things I
18 -- I did want to mention is that we've heard a great
19 deal of concerns about county redistricting and
20 municipal redistricting.

21 And that's -- that's your right if that's what
22 you want to use your time and making a statement
23 concerning those things. But I just want to
24 reemphasize that that's not in our pur- -- purview. We
25 will not be redistricting counties or municipalities.

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 18

1 So don't think we're just not interested. Or --
2 or -- or that we're going to ignore, um, anything that
3 you might say about those things. But we -- there's --
4 we're not going to be doing -- we're not going to be
5 doing that.

6 We'll be doing House -- Mississippi House and
7 Senate and congressional redistricting. And, um, so,
8 um, that -- that having been said do we have anyone
9 else that would like to say anything?

10 MALE: Thank you Mr. Chair. But I just wanted to
11 welcome Mr. Chairman and also Mr. vice chair, Dean
12 Kirby, uh, and also members of the redistricting
13 committee, uh, to the Delta, uh, as you all know in
14 the public [inaudible] represent parts of Bolivar,
15 Washington, and Oklahoma counties, and welcome to the
16 Delta. And -- and welcome to Mississippi Valley State
17 University.

18 MR. BECKETT: Thank you very much. All right. Is
19 there anyone else that [inaudible]. All right, well,
20 um, that -- that having been dispensed with, um, I'm
21 now going to call on the individuals that -- that I
22 have received a card, uh, that they would like to
23 speak. Mr. Charles is, I think is [inaudible]?

24 FEMALE: [Inaudible].

25 MR. BECKETT: Okay. All right.

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 19

1 MR. CHARLES: I'd like to say good evening to
2 everybody. Especially to the redistricting committee
3 for the state of Mississippi. It'll be in a statement
4 Mississippi joint [inaudible] redistricting committee.
5 Or Mississippi [inaudible] engagement roundtable.
6 Mississippi State Conference, NAACP. One Voice NAACP,
7 Sunflower County branch. [Inaudible] concerns
8 [inaudible] Sunflower [inaudible] Bolivar, Oklahoma,
9 [inaudible].

10 Montgomery Homes and Tyler and Lee Counties. The
11 process of redistricting is a critical component of a
12 [inaudible]. And who represents them at local state
13 and federal level. All the process of drawing maps
14 that's a very technical steel that very few can
15 master. Everyone has a right to express how these
16 boundaries affect their life. [Inaudible] continue to
17 be a major issue in Mississippi.

18 [Inaudible] areas voting as well as the lack of
19 political representation [inaudible] move to
20 disenfranchise them as a citizen.

21 My organization, along with the Mississippi City
22 engagement roundtable have documented years of voter
23 suppression factors that have led to a cynical amount
24 of mistrust in voting system here in Mississippi.
25 Mississippi remains at the bottom of the nation or the

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 20

1 lack of assess that it provides to citizens for
2 voting.

3 Antiquated systems such as lack of online voting
4 registration, lack of early voting programs and -- and
5 an absentee voting system that requires an
6 organization of the applicant and ballot. The COVID-19
7 pandemic made this issue even worse.

8 Many states implemented valid job programs in all
9 the effort to ensure the safety of both voters, and
10 the election officials. Mississippi could have used
11 this urgent health crisis to rise to the occasion, to
12 put the health of it's citizens first but we did not.

13 Instead we passed legislation [inaudible]
14 individually, who contracted the virus [inaudible] our
15 caregivers to use this as an excuse to vote by
16 absentee ballot. Just caused more confusion for
17 citizens and election vo- -- workers then had to put
18 their own health at risk to provide a ballot for the
19 individual with the virus. This is voter suppression.
20 Incidents like these continue to display themselves in
21 various form and make it more difficult for people to
22 vote.

23 Among the top of the list of the concern of voter
24 [inaudible] confusion regarding polling places and the
25 lack of adequate election equipment. Citizens of

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 21

1 Sunflower County continue to witness these incidents
2 of voter suppression. With every [inaudible] denied
3 their rights to receive a system-wide voting sent to
4 different voting precincts.

5 We deserve a fair voting process and handled with
6 integrity. The development of [inaudible] boundaries
7 at the local state and federal level can help us
8 improve our election process, by development districts
9 that keep our communities together and are
10 transparent. Which includes keeping the boundaries of
11 [inaudible] District 2, the same as we speak. Thank
12 you very much.

13 MR. BECKETT: Thank you. [Inaudible]. Thank you
14 for -- for coming in. I appreciate you making the
15 effort to be here. Next, is Melvin Young.

16 MR. YOUNG: Good eve- -- good evening, everyone.
17 It is truly an honor to be before the committee this
18 afternoon. And after we were in Senatobia the other
19 afternoon, it kind of put me to work.

20 Uh, my name is Melvin Young. I'm a community
21 redistricting specialist, uh, that has helped many of
22 our communities across the state of Mississippi,
23 through various organizations. When one of the
24 committee members asked the other evening, what is it
25 that you want us to do?

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 22

1 We decided we were going to try to give you all,
2 uh, more than just a little conversation. We'll give
3 you a little paper to look at.

4 A couple of things that was -- that has been
5 brought out at all the other public hearings and I
6 just wanted to echo this as well, is that we want to
7 make certain for the congressional, uh, redistricting,
8 that you all have coming up few specific things. Uh,
9 district number one, may need to take up more
10 [inaudible].

11 Uh, congressional district number 2, doesn't need
12 to go into the [inaudible] County. It should be
13 extended farther south. And obviously district 4, who
14 has more population, it's going to lose a few
15 counties.

16 Now I know this is a lot of information to look
17 up all of a sudden Mr. Chair, but we wanted to answer
18 the question that your member asked the other day
19 about what specifically we would like to see?

20 We certainly want to make sure we protect our
21 communities of interest in all of those, uh,
22 districts. Very specifically since a congressional
23 district, number 2 was created by a, uh, judge- --
24 judges, as well as the last one that was done by the
25 judges. Um, we took a very quick hit at this just to

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 23

1 try to give you -- you all an idea with the projected
2 information, what our concepts were.

3 So I -- since I'm one of those ones who helped to
4 kind of put this on the paper, I just wanted to know,
5 were there any other questions specifically around the
6 congressional redistricting that you all would like
7 for us to answer [inaudible] the evening, that was the
8 question. What do we want you to do? And we have
9 before you a proposal.

10 And remember, this is just like you all said,
11 it's projected information. And once the information
12 comes out, we will certainly be working in communities
13 and sharing more as you all push this process forward.

14 And once again, we want to thank you for allowing
15 us to have this input. And certainly as communities,
16 um, we, we want to have an active voice in this
17 process. So Mr. Joe, was there any other questions
18 that the gentlemen had? [Inaudible] here?

19 MR. JOE: Yeah. Yeah. If, uh, if anyone has a
20 question they -- they can. I'm sure you'll be here
21 afterwards [inaudible].

22 MR. YOUNG: Yes. Thank you all.

23 MR. JOE: Excuse me. [Inaudible].

24 MR. BECKETT: I'm -- I'm -- I'm sorry. I just
25 want to be clear. There is a reference at the bottom

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 24

1 of the map to the Tunica County Redistricting
2 Committee.

3 MR. JOE: Yes.

4 MR. BECKETT: And so I assume this is a
5 recommendation from the Tunica County Redistricting
6 Committee.

7 MR. JOE: Yes, sir.

8 MR. BECKETT: Thank you. Next, uh, [inaudible]
9 like to speak? Good evening.

10 FEMALE: Good afternoon. Thank you all. Uh, the
11 redistricting committee, allowing us an opportunity to
12 speak on behalf -- my name is Marilyn Young and I'm a
13 resident of Tunica County and I'm standing
14 representing the Mississippi Education Organizing
15 Alliance. And I'm here to make a couple of requests.

16 The first one is, uh, since the census data has
17 not been released and you all have already started
18 having the public hearings we are asking you all,
19 would you please come back and have public hearings
20 after the data is released? .

21 And you all have drawn the map so the community
22 can view them, analyze them and evaluate them so we
23 can see them.

24 The last redistricting cycle we did not get an
25 opportunity to view the maps before the legislature

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 25

1 voted on them, nor were we able to see them. That was
2 not another process that gave the community an
3 opportunity to help check that and look at it.

4 And so we're asking that once these numbers are
5 out and before you all actually take a vote on it,
6 will you please consider having public hearing so that
7 we can review maps, uh.

8 Uh, the next thing is I would like to ask that
9 you please try to adhere as much as possible to the
10 principals of redistricting. We ask that the district
11 must be composed of a continuous character.

12 Districts should be compact. They shouldn't have
13 all types of irregular shapes. The redistricting plan
14 should avoid truly racial gerrymandering. The
15 redistricting plan should avoid a political
16 gerrymander.

17 A redistricting plan would not have either the
18 purpose or the effect of [inaudible] minority voting
19 [inaudible] and shall otherwise comply with section 2
20 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act. The 14th and 15th
21 amendment of the constitution. The plan should avoid
22 drawing districts that are odd shapes. Boundaries
23 should cross governmental or political boundaries that
24 at least one time is less as possible.

25 The redistricting plan should be drafted such

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 26

1 that the districts are bound by roads, streams, and
2 natural visible boundaries.

3 The redistricting plan should preserve
4 longstanding communities of interest. And when we talk
5 about communities of interest, we're very concerned
6 about congressional district 2 in which we live in.

7 We would like, uh, for those communities of
8 interest to stay together. We would like to request
9 that it does not go into the Soda County, but it goes
10 -- continue to go south as Congressman Thompson
11 requested, uh, early on by putting Hans County and
12 some of the other Southern territory in that district.

13 We should also, uh, ask that the redistricting
14 plan should not draw -- be drawn so that it minimize
15 the cost of election administration and voter
16 confusion.

17 We would not like to see one side of the street
18 in one district and another side of the street and
19 another one. It just causes all kinds of confusing on
20 election day with people not knowing where they should
21 vote.

22 And once again, I would like to request that you
23 all please allow us an opportunity to view, analyze,
24 and evaluate the plans as they are drawn before the
25 legislator takes the final vote.

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 27

1 We understand that you all have that final
2 authority to vote on those plans, but we're very
3 concerned, uh, about trying to make sure that you
4 don't rack up on a lot of unnecessary, um, seats, just
5 because you have the knowledge to do so. We want this
6 process to be fair, and we want to stay an integral
7 part of the process. Thank you.

8 MR. BECKETT: Thank you very much. Um, Mr. -- Mr.
9 [inaudible].

10 MALE: Good afternoon. [Inaudible]. I have lived
11 in -- I have lived also in Tupelo, uh, for five years
12 in both Lee County and here in [inaudible] County. I
13 have worked as a paid poll worker paid by the county.
14 I have worked as an unpaid poll watcher. I have also
15 worked closely with a friend, now deceased, who served
16 on the election commission of [inaudible] County for
17 several terms.

18 I still have two friends on the election
19 commission, although I do not do any work for them.
20 Um, as a poll worker in several elections, as a poll
21 watcher in a few elections, I want to echo, uh, two or
22 three of the comments that Mrs. Marilyn, uh, Young,
23 just made. I simply, um, wanted to say that on behalf
24 of the circuit clerk, the five members of the election
25 commission poll workers, um, as well as voters.

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 28

1 Um, please try to draw your legislative district
2 lines and the congressional district lines so that
3 they coincide as much as possible with other district
4 lines, um, lines, such as municipal and county over
5 which you have no control. Um, I feel like there's a
6 chicken and egg problem because I don't know who goes
7 first in redistricting, whether it's legislative, you
8 go first.

9 So okay. Um, so I -- I will try to make the same
10 plea to my supervisors of the county city council in
11 the city to draw their lines to coincide with the
12 lines you draw. But the reasons are obvious as Mrs.
13 Young stated, um, to reduce confusion in the polling
14 place on election day. Um, it is helpful to have as
15 few sub-district- -- sub-districts and split precincts
16 as possible.

17 And then for the sake of the -- the printer of
18 the ballot, the circuit clerk and the election
19 commission, and preparing for elections, um, it would
20 -- would reduce confusion for them as well.

21 So I just wanted to let you know a lawyer in
22 Greenwood who sometimes is a poll worker cares enough
23 about that to come and -- and speak to you, uh, uh, on
24 that one topic. Thank you.

25 MR. BECKETT: Thank you very much. And, uh, we do

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 29

1 acknowledge the difficulties created by split
2 precincts. Um, having been a victim of that myself,
3 uh, I think I had 23 split precincts. The first time I
4 ran for office, I don't know, 30 something precinct,
5 so I understand the confusion that that can cause.

6 But just so the public will understand we- --
7 we're going to draw as few split precincts as
8 possible, legally possible. But after we draw the
9 districts, then a lot of the counties are going to
10 move some of the precincts as such because they're
11 faced with the requirements of one man, one vote
12 requirements.

13 So they're going to feel the -- the need to move
14 some of their -- so there's going to be some --
15 they're going to be split there's just no avoiding
16 that. We just -- well -- we will attempt to keep that
17 to a minimum on our part.

18 Um, are there any other questions, ma'am? All
19 right. At this time we don't -- we don't have any
20 other -- other questions. Is there any member of the
21 committee who has anything they would like to say
22 before we adjourn? [Inaudible].

23 MALE: Uh, thank you. I don't want to go on at
24 length about the split precincts and it- -- it's a
25 very bad situation, but this is the dilemma.

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 30

1 The -- the information that we have now is based
2 on existing precincts. It's -- that's how we get our
3 data of where we -- I mean, we have -- we have more
4 detailed data, but what else would you use as a
5 building block?

6 So we've got to work with existing precincts.
7 Because counties have smaller populations, a shift in
8 a few votes, or a few people will require a county in
9 order to keep the dist- -- county districts the same
10 size to move some -- some lines around.

11 So we use existing precincts and then after
12 that's over later the counties come along and
13 redistrict and they will move lines because they have
14 to because of population. It's a problem.

15 Not all of the split precincts are due to that,
16 but that's the -- a major problem that we have. So we
17 -- we feel your pain, but I don't know that there's an
18 easy solution.

19 MR. BECKETT: Okay. Um, I want to thank -- I want
20 to thank our host again for -- for hosting this event,
21 providing this facility for us.

22 I want to thank the public for their attendance,
23 um, I want to -- I want to thank our staff. And, uh, I
24 want to thank our -- especially I want to -- I want to
25 thank our Congressman for his attendance and honoring

**The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021**

Page 31

1 us with -- with -- with what he had to say, we
2 appreciate that.

3 I thank our other members who are not on the
4 committee for coming and just remind the pu- -- the
5 public that we are at the beginning of this process.

6 And them, um, you know, if they -- if they may
7 provide us with any comments or suggestions, on our
8 proposed plans by mailing them to Ted Booth staff
9 council joint reapportionment committee. PO Box 1204,
10 Jackson, Mississippi, 39215-1204.

11 Or you can send an email to
12 ted.booth@peer.ms.gov. And, uh, with that being said,
13 um, you'll have a good evening. And this meeting
14 stands adjourned.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021

Page 32

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

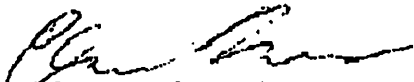
23

24

25

I, Chris Naaden, a transcriber, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that to the best of my ability the above 31 pages contain a full, true and correct transcription of the tape-recording that I received regarding the event listed on the caption on page 1.

I further declare that I have no interest in the event of the action.



August 25, 2021

Chris Naaden

(Standing Joint Congressional Redistricting Committee,
Itta Bene, 8-11-21)

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 **Index: 1.attendance**

1	39215-1204	addition	allowing
	16:2 31:10	9:18	23:14
			24:11
1 3:6,8,11,	4	Additionally	amendment
13,15,17,		11:1	25:21
19,21,23	4 22:13	address 2:14	America 8:3
16:21	47 9:7	16:5	amount 7:15
10 10:24		adequate	19:23
1204 16:2	5	20:25	analyze
31:9		adhere 25:9	24:22
14th 25:20	5 25:20	adjourn	26:23
15th 25:20	50 9:5	29:22	answering
1890 11:2	6	adjourned	13:21
		31:14	Anthony 9:12
2	6:00 2:3	adjustments	anticipate
		7:13,14	10:5
2 3:10	A	administration	Antiquated
21:11		26:15	20:3
22:11,23	ability 8:19	advantage	appears 2:19
25:19 26:6	abou- 10:17	14:18	applaud
2010 10:4	absentee	advised	8:17,19
2022 11:18	20:5,16	15:25	applicant
16:21	absolutely	affect 19:16	20:6
23 29:3	6:22	afternoon	areas 12:1,
254 11:1	access 14:19	21:18,19	2,4 13:2,3
26 6:25	15:23	24:10	19:18
28 6:15	16:10,17	27:10	arrive 16:13
	acknowledge	agency 4:14	assess 20:1
3	29:1	agricultural	assume 24:4
	act 14:25	8:2	attempt
30 9:9 29:4	25:20	ahead 2:5	29:16
30th 16:14	active 23:16	Alliance	attendance
31 9:12	actual 12:19	24:15	

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 Index: attended..circuit

30:22,25	24:4,8	branch 19:7	caregivers
attended	27:8 28:25	Brian 3:17,	20:15
14:8	30:19	18 9:7	cares 28:22
attention	begin 2:3	bring 8:5	cases 2:19
13:24	11:16 13:4	13:24	casino 8:7
audience	beginning	broadcast	caused 20:16
5:22	31:5	9:21	census 10:25
authority	behalf 5:16	broadcasting	12:16,18
27:2	24:12	2:4	13:6 24:16
avoid 25:14,	27:23	brought 6:10	chair 2:13,
15,21	benefit	22:5	22,25
avoiding	15:17	Brown 3:8	18:10,11
29:15	Blackness	building	22:17
	3:8	30:5	chairman
B	blessed 5:5	business	3:25 4:19
back 11:8	block 30:5	8:20	17:2,6
16:9 17:10	bo- 10:23	C	18:11
24:19	Bolivar 9:6,	call 2:25	challenges
bad 29:25	13 18:14	3:1,4	11:20,22
ballot 20:6,	19:8	10:16	13:7
16,18	book 15:22	14:11,12	chance 5:24
28:18	Booth 16:1	18:21	change 14:12
based 30:1	31:8	called 2:25	character
beautiful	bottom 19:25	calling 4:4	25:11
5:1	23:25	campus 4:16	Charles
Beckett 2:1	bound 26:1	5:7	18:23 19:1
3:6,7,25	boundaries	car 6:11	check 25:3
5:19 6:3,6	19:16	card 14:4,	chicken 28:6
8:22 9:16	21:6,10	5,10,15	choice 6:22
17:17	25:22,23	18:22	Christian
18:18,25	26:2	care 5:25	8:6
21:13	Box 16:2		circuit
23:24	31:9		

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 **Index: citizen.council**

27:24	3:2,3 4:20	computer	Congressman
28:18	6:9 8:24	14:19	5:22,23
citizen	11:8 14:17	concepts	26:10
19:20	15:7 16:1,	23:2	30:25
	24 17:4		
citizens	18:13	concern	congressperson
20:1,12,	19:2,4	20:23	6:21 7:6
17,25	21:17,24	concern-	constitution
city 19:21	24:2,6,11	15:8	11:1 25:21
28:10,11	29:21	concerned	constitutional
Clark 9:7	31:4,9	26:5 27:3	10:21
clear 11:21	committees'	concerns	contact
23:25	14:18	10:6	15:21 16:9
	15:11	13:13,20,	continue
clerk 27:24	communities	22 14:21,	19:16
28:18	7:9,24	23 15:1,9	20:20 21:1
close 7:20	15:5 21:9,	17:19 19:7	26:10
16:13	22 22:21	Conference	continuing
closely	23:12,15	19:6	4:24
27:15	26:4,5,7	confusing	continuous
coast 11:25	communities'	26:19	25:11
17:5	6:23	confusion	contracted
coincide	community	20:16,24	20:14
28:3,11	21:20	26:16	
commence	24:21 25:2	28:13,20	control 28:5
11:4,5	compact	29:5	convenient
16:11	25:12	congressional	13:16
comment 10:1	compliment	2:12 3:3	conversation
comments	8:21	7:15 10:23	22:2
27:22 31:7	comply 25:19	11:13	corn 8:4
		13:25	corner 11:25
commission	component	16:11 18:7	cost 26:15
27:16,19,	19:11	22:7,11,22	
25 28:19	composed	23:6 26:6	cotton 8:4
committee	25:11	28:2	council 3:4
2:8,15,16			

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 **Index: counties..earnest**

16:1 28:10	cross 25:23	demographics	13,23
31:9	current 10:5	6:19	25:10
counties	cycle 24:24	denied 21:2	26:6,12,18
6:25 7:2,	cynical	depending	28:1,2,3
3,7 9:8,11	19:23	2:22	districts
12:9 17:25		deserve 21:5	2:12 8:2,
18:15		detailed	16 10:23,
19:10	D	30:4	24 12:8,25
22:15 29:9	data 16:12	development	15:4 21:8
30:7,12	24:16,20	21:6,8	22:22
county 7:5,	30:3,4	difficult	25:12,22
8,18,19,	day 5:1,5,6	8:15 20:21	26:1 29:9
21,22 9:6,	22:18	difficulties	30:9
13,15	26:20	12:7 29:1	documented
12:3,11	28:14	dilemma	19:22
17:19 19:7	deadlines	29:25	drafted
21:1 22:12	11:12	discussing	25:25
24:1,5,13	deal 12:8,	13:13	draw 26:14
26:9,11	13 17:19	disenfranchise	28:1,11,12
27:12,13,	Dean 18:11	19:20	29:7,8
16 28:4,10	Debar 3:19	dispensed	drawing
30:8,9	deceased	18:20	13:25
coup- 2:5	27:15	display	19:13
couple 2:6	decide 14:13	20:20	25:22
6:17 22:4	decided 17:9	dist- 30:9	drawn 13:1
24:15	22:1	district	24:21
COVID 17:9	delays 12:18	6:10,14,18	26:14,24
COVID-19	delivery	8:1,9,10,	due 30:15
20:6	16:12	14 9:4,5,	
created	Delta 8:1	7,9,12	E
22:23 29:1	9:3 18:13,	12:15,25	earlier 11:9
crisis 20:11	16	14:1 21:11	early 20:4
critical		22:9,11,	26:11
19:11			earnest

**The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021**

Index: easy..give

11:10	12:17,24	facility	23:13
easy 30:18	13:1,6	4:10 30:21	fractional
echo 22:6	Eubanks 3:8	fact 12:17,	7:2
27:21	evaluate	21	Frazier
Education	24:22	factors	17:10
24:14	26:24	19:23	free 2:18
effect 25:18	eve- 21:16	fair 21:5	freshmen 5:6
effort 2:17	evening	27:6	friend 27:15
20:9 21:15	13:23 19:1	fall 11:14	friends 8:6
efforts	21:16,24	farther	27:18
11:12	23:7 24:9	22:13	front 12:10
egg 28:6	31:13	federal	15:19
eight- 5:11	event 30:20	10:21	future 9:23
election	excuse 20:15	19:13 21:7	
20:10,17,	23:23	feel 28:5	<hr/> G <hr/>
25 21:8	existing	29:13	gained 11:24
26:15,20	30:2,6,11	30:17	13:2
27:16,18,	expect 14:21	FEMALE 18:24	gaining
24 28:14,	experience	24:10	12:14
18	5:15	final 16:12	gave 25:2
elections	express	26:25 27:1	gentlemen
27:20,21	13:18 15:8	finished	2:1 23:18
28:19	19:15	11:15	gerrymander
email 14:17	extended	fix 7:22	25:16
16:3 31:11	22:13	follow 16:6	gerrymandering
engagement	extent 6:23	foods 8:7	25:14
19:5,22		form 20:21	give 2:15
ensure 20:9	<hr/> F <hr/>	formalities	7:19 13:6
entire 6:25	face 11:20	2:6	14:11
equipment	faced 29:11	formation	22:1,2
20:25	facilities	11:8	23:1
estimates	4:13	forward 5:8	

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 **Index: giving individually**

giving 5:10	health	hope 16:14	20,24,25
goal 5:12	20:11,12,	Hops 3:19,	8:1,5,9
good 4:15	18	20	9:1,2,3,4,
8:7 10:12	hear 8:12	host 30:20	6,8,11,12,
13:6 19:1	13:19,22	hosting	14,15
21:16	14:21,22	30:20	12:3,4
24:9,10	heard 14:25	House 9:7	15:22
27:10	15:2,3,4,	15:10,13	16:11
31:13	5,7 17:18	18:6	17:4,15
govern 15:10	hearing 2:13	House's 8:24	18:14,19,
governmental	3:2 6:2	Humphreys	23,24
25:23	8:18 12:17	9:13	19:4,5,7,
great 12:13	13:14,18		8,9,12,16,
17:18	25:6		18,19
Greenwood	hearings 2:9		20:13,14,
28:22	7:24 10:3,	I	24 21:2,6,
Gulf 11:24	4 13:8,15	idea 23:1	11,13
	22:5	ignore 18:2	22:10,12
H	24:18,19	implemented	23:7,18,
	helped 21:21	20:8	21,23 24:8
ha- 14:13	23:3	important	25:18,19
15:12	helpful 13:2	6:19,22	27:9,10,
handled	28:14	7:8,25	12,16
15:12 21:5	Hey 9:2	14:24	29:22
handouts	Himes 9:5	impose 2:22	incidents
15:14,17	hit 22:25	improve 21:8	20:20 21:1
Hans 7:18,	holds 2:9	inaudible	includes
19,21,22	Homes 19:10	2:7,17	21:10
26:11	honestly	3:9,23	income 8:8
happen	14:22	4:1,21,22,	index 14:5
16:16,17	honor 21:17	24 5:3	indication
happy 7:23	honoring	6:1,2,9,	13:6
8:17	30:25	10,13,14,	individual
		16,20 7:5,	20:19
		7,14,18,	individually
			20:14

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 **Index: individuals..love**

individuals			21:7
9:18 18:21	J	L	11- 2:20
information	Jackson 16:2	lack 19:18	life 7:21
10:9,12	31:10	20:1,3,4,	19:16
15:22	January	25	limit 2:21
16:5,10,14	16:21	Lake 9:14	lines 12:15,
22:16	job 20:8	late 4:2	25 14:1
23:2,11	Joe 23:17,	Lauderdale	28:2,4,11,
30:1	19,23	12:3	12 30:10,
input 23:15	24:3,7	lawyer 28:21	13
integral	John 9:5	leave 8:7	list 20:23
27:6	joint 2:8	led 19:23	listen 13:23
integrity	3:2,3 6:9	Lee 19:10	listening
21:6	15:10 16:1	27:12	17:14
interest	19:4 31:9	legally 29:8	live 7:21
7:25 15:5	judge- 22:23	legislation	9:21 26:6
22:21	judges	20:13	lived 27:10,
26:4,5,8	22:24,25	legislative	11
interested		10:24	local 19:12
18:1	K	11:18	21:7
interests	keeping	13:25	long 17:5
6:23	21:10	28:1,7	longstanding
introduce	kind 14:20	legislator	26:4
8:25	21:19 23:4	26:25	lose 22:14
introduction	kinds 26:19	legislature	lost 7:11
2:7	Kirby 3:15,	2:11 11:2,	12:8,9,13
irregular	16 18:12	17 16:20	13:3
25:13	knowing	24:25	lot 22:16
issue 19:17	26:20	length 29:24	27:4 29:9
20:7	knowledge	letting	love 4:17
it- 29:24	27:5	17:15	
		level 19:13	

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 Index: made..odd

	24:12	minimum	16:16
M	27:22	29:17	municipal
made 20:7	master 19:15	minority	17:20 28:4
27:23	matter 13:23	25:18	municipalities
Madison 9:15	matters	minutes 10:3	15:3 17:25
mail 15:25	15:11,12	Mississippi	
mailing 31:8	meeting 3:1	2:10 5:2,	N
major 19:17	4:5 5:18	16 8:23	NAACP 19:6
30:16	9:21 31:13	9:2 11:24	nation 19:25
make 7:12,	meetings	16:2 18:6,	natural 26:2
14 11:21	11:7 14:8	16 19:3,4,	nice 4:10
16:25 17:1	15:11 17:7	5,6,17,21,	Northwest
20:21	Melvin	24,25	11:25
22:7,20	21:15,20	20:10	notice 17:2
24:15 27:3	member 16:24	21:22	noticed 6:11
28:9	22:18	24:14	number 16:5
making 4:11	29:20	31:10	22:9,11,23
9:19 17:22	members	mistrust	numbers
21:14	2:13,18	19:24	12:19,22,
MALE 3:6,8,	3:4 4:1,8,	Montgomery	23 25:4
10,11,13,	19 8:23	19:10	
15,17,19,	13:9 14:3,	months 11:17	
21,23 17:1	6 15:21,24	morph 7:4	
18:10	17:12	motion 5:13,	O
27:10	18:12	15	obvious
29:23	21:24	move 19:19	28:12
man 29:11	27:24 31:3	29:10,13	occasion
Mango 3:11	mention	30:10,13	20:11
map 24:1,21	17:18	movement	occasionally
maps 12:10	mind 14:12	12:15	15:18
19:13	minimal 7:15	moving 5:7	occur 11:14
24:25 25:7	minimize	ms.gov. 16:4	16:20
Marilyn	26:14	multiple	odd 15:4

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 **Index: offer..presenting**

25:22	outstanding	Perkins 3:19	polling
offer 2:13	4:22	person 10:22	20:24
5:24			28:13
office 29:4	<u>P</u>	personally	population
official	p-e-e- 16:3	7:17	7:12
12:22	paid 27:13	persons	11:19,24
officials	pain 30:17	2:20,23	12:4,9
20:10	pandemic	ph 3:19	13:3 22:14
Oklahoma	20:7	9:5,6,9	30:14
18:15 19:8	paper 22:3	phone 16:5	populations
online 20:3	23:4	pick 6:20	12:9,11
opening 9:25	Parker 3:21	PL94-171	30:7
opinion	Parson 4:17,	16:12	portal 15:23
13:18	19	place 28:14	portions
opportunities	part 7:1	places 12:14	9:10
5:14	27:7 29:17	20:24	positions
opportunity	participate	plan 25:13,	8:13
2:14,18	13:10,12	15,17,21,	possibly
4:15,23,25	parts 11:23	25 26:3,14	7:16
8:12 13:17	18:14	plans 26:24	precinct
14:18	passed 20:13	27:2 31:8	29:4
24:11,25	past 13:8	plea 28:10	precincts
25:3 26:23	14:24	pleasure	6:24 7:10
order 3:3	people 2:2	5:20	15:2 21:4
30:9	7:5,7 8:5,	PO 16:2	28:15
organization	12 10:16	31:9	29:2,3,7,
19:21 20:6	12:13,14	point 10:20	10,24
organizations	14:12	political	30:2,6,11,
21:23	15:20	19:19	15
Organizing	17:3,6	25:15,23	preparing
24:14	20:21		9:20 28:19
out- 4:22	26:20 30:8	poll 27:13,	present 3:5
		14,20,25	4:7
		28:22	presenting

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 **Index: preserve..redistricting**

12:16	proposed	put 16:9	real 7:22
preserve	31:8	20:12,17	reapportionmen
26:3	protect	21:19 23:4	t 3:2 16:1
president	22:20	putting	31:9
4:11	provide 10:8	26:11	reason 16:15
pretty 7:20	15:21		reasons
principals	16:4,8	Q	28:12
25:10	20:18 31:7	qualify	reassured
printer	providing	11:16	16:16
28:17	30:21	qualifying	receive 2:9
problem 28:6	pu- 31:4	11:11	21:3
30:14,16	public 2:9,	question	received
problems	14,18 3:1,	13:11	18:22
12:5	2 4:13 6:1	15:13	recognize
process	8:18,19	22:18	16:24
13:10	10:1,4,6	23:8,20	recommendation
19:11,13	11:21	questions	24:5
21:5,8	13:10,12,	10:6 13:21	recommendation
23:13,17	15 14:3,19	16:8 23:5,	s 2:10
25:2 27:6,	15:21,22,	17 29:18,	recommended
7 31:5	24 16:10,	20	6:15
producer	17 18:14	quick 7:22	record 4:6
8:8,10	22:5	22:25	6:6 14:8
producing	24:18,19	quorum 4:4	redistrict
12:18	25:6 29:6		2:11 3:3
productive	30:22 31:5	R	10:18,22
5:18	public's	racial 25:14	11:2 30:13
programs	8:11,20	rack 27:4	redistricting
20:4,8	pur- 17:24	ran 29:4	2:17 10:15
projected	purpose	ranging	11:3,5,6,
23:1,11	25:18	14:25	13 12:19
proposal	purview	re- 10:22	17:19,20,
23:9	17:24	15:15	25 18:7,12
	push 23:13		19:2,4,11

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 Index: reduce.simple

21:21 22:7	representation	roads 26:1	September
23:6 24:1,	19:19	roll 3:4	16:13,14
5,11,24	representative	4:4	series 11:7
25:10,13,	6:21	rolling 6:3	13:14
15,17,25	representing	Rosebud 9:9	served 27:15
26:3,13	9:10 24:14	roundtable	session
28:7	represents	19:5,22	11:18
reduce	19:12	rules 15:10,	set 12:6
28:13,20	request	13	Shanks 3:13,
reduces	26:8,22		14
16:11	requested	8	shaped 15:4
Reed 3:11,	26:11	s- 14:4	shapes
12	requests	16:17	25:13,22
reemphasize	24:15	safety 20:9	share 5:14
17:24	require 30:8	sake 28:17	6:18
reference	required 4:4	scenarios	sharing
23:25	11:3	12:5	23:13
registration	requirements	scheduled	shift 30:7
20:4	10:21	2:3	shifts 11:20
relates 6:18	29:11,12	seats 27:4	showcase
released	requires 4:5	section 11:1	4:16
24:17,20	10:22 11:2	25:19	showing 13:2
remains	20:5	Senate 6:21	side 7:15
19:25	resident	8:24 18:7	26:17,18
remember	24:13	Senatobia	sign 14:4,
23:10	restful 8:15	21:18	5,6,10
remind 31:4	revenue 8:10	Senator	significant
reminder 2:8	review 25:7	17:10	8:9
4:3 15:9	rights 14:25	send 15:25	Simmons
repeat 15:15	21:3 25:20	16:3,7	3:21,22
represent	rise 20:11	31:11	simple
6:25 18:14	risk 20:18		12:17,21

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 **Index: simply..terminals**

simply 4:6	28:15	17:22 19:3	4:21
14:7 27:23	29:1,3,7,	statements	suppression
sir 24:7	15,24	2:15	19:23
situation	30:15	states 5:22	20:19 21:2
29:25	splitting	7:11 20:8	surgery
size 30:10	15:2,3,5	statistical	17:11
smaller 30:7	staff 9:19	7:16	system 19:24
Soda 26:9	10:2 14:14	stay 26:8	20:5
solution	16:1 30:23	27:6	system-wide
30:18	31:8	steel 19:14	21:3
south 22:13	staffs 16:5	streams 26:1	systems 20:3
26:10	standing 6:9	street	<hr/>
Southern	24:13	26:17,18	T
26:12	standpoint	sub-district-	takes 26:25
soybeans 8:4	8:15	28:15	talk 26:4
speak 2:20,	stands 31:14	sub-districts	Tallahassee
23 4:25	start 5:1	28:15	9:10
14:5,9,13	16:18	submit 14:16	tapes 6:3
18:23	started 2:3,	sudden 22:17	Tate 3:23
21:11	5 7:2 10:1	suggestions	Taylor 3:15
24:9,12	11:6,10	2:9 14:16	team 5:12
28:23	24:17	31:7	technical
SPEAKER 9:2,	state 4:14,	summer 11:9	19:14
4	21 5:2,16	sunflower	Ted 15:25
specialist	6:19	9:10,13	31:8
21:21	11:23,25	19:7,8	ted.booth@peer
specific	12:4 13:16	21:1	16:3
22:8	17:7 18:16	supervisors	ted.booth@
specifically	19:3,6,12	28:10	peer.ms.gov.
22:19,22	21:7,22	support 4:24	31:12
23:5	stated 17:7	5:10	terminals
split 6:22,	28:13	supporting	14:19
24 7:1,9	statement		
	9:25 16:25		

**The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 Index: word..Young**

word 5:12 28:13

words 4:17

5:12,24

work 4:22

9:20,22

21:19

27:19 30:6

worked

27:13,14,

15

worker

27:13,20

28:22

workers

20:17

27:25

working

11:16 13:4

23:12

worse 20:7

writing

14:17

Y

year 11:12

years 6:15

10:24

19:22

27:11

Young 21:15,

16,20

23:22

24:12

27:22

The MS Standing Joint Legislative Committee on Reapportion and Redistricting
Public Hearing on 08/11/2021 **Index: terms..Williams**

terms 27:17	6:11 10:17	urgent 20:11	votes 30:8
territory 26:12	tonight 5:20 17:16	<hr/> V <hr/>	voting 7:10 14:25
texts 17:13	top 20:23	valid 20:8	19:18,24
that- 12:21	topic 28:24	Valley 5:2, 13,16 18:16	20:2,3,4,5 21:3,4,5 25:18,20
the- 7:23	Tracy 9:9		
thing 5:4 6:12 25:8	transparent 21:10	venue 8:11	<hr/> W <hr/>
things 2:5 4:16 6:17 10:13 13:21 14:25 17:17,23 18:3 22:4, 8.	Tunica 24:1, 5,13 Tupelo 27:11 Tyler 19:10 types 25:13 <hr/> U <hr/>	vice 18:11 victim 29:2 Victoria 9:14 view 24:22, 25 26:23 virus 20:14, 19 visible 26:2 vision 5:12 vo- 20:17 voice 19:6 23:16 vote 10:22 20:15,22 25:5 26:21,25 27:2 29:11 voted 25:1 voter 19:22 20:19,23 21:2 26:15 voters 13:17 20:9 27:25	wanted 14:5 18:10 22:6,17 23:4 27:23 28:21 warm 6:13 Washington 9:6,13 18:15 watcher 27:14,21 watching 15:16 17:13 ways 13:12 we- 11:3 13:11 29:6 weeks 16:19, 21 wh- 14:23 White 3:15 whoa 6:12 Williams 3:24
thinking 13:4	understand 27:1 29:5, 6 unique 5:20 United 5:22 university 4:21 5:2, 4,8,11,17 18:17 unnecessary 27:4 unpaid 27:14 upcoming 2:16 upheaval 7:16		
Thompson 5:23 6:1, 5,8 26:10			
time 2:21, 24,25 4:8, 9,25 7:4 9:1 10:16 11:15 12:23 15:22 16:18 17:22 25:24 29:3,19			
times 16:16			
today 5:4,6			



1072 W. Lynch Street, Suite 7
Jackson, MS 39203
Phone: (601) 960-9594
Email: roundtable@uniteonaveoice.org
Website: www.onevoice.ms.org

Itta Bena Statement

To: Mississippi Joint Legislative Redistricting Committee

From: Mississippi Civic Engagement Roundtable

Mississippi State Conference NAACP

One Voice

NAACP, Sunflower County Branch

Re: Political Apportionment Concerns in Sunflower, Leflore, Yazoo, Sharkey, Humphreys, Issaquena, Washington, Bolivar, Coahoma, Tunica, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Panola, Yalobusha, Grenada, Montgomery, Holmes, Attala, and Leake Counties

The process of redistricting is a critical component of a citizens' political rights to have a say in who represents them at local, state and federal levels. Although the process of drawing maps is a very technical skill that very few can master, everyone has a right to express how these boundaries affect their lives.

Voter suppression continues be major issue in Mississippi. Barriers to voting as well as the lack of political representation are avenues to the disfranchisement of citizens. My organization, along with the Mississippi Civic Engagement Roundtable, have documented years of voter suppression tactics that have led to a considerable amount of mistrust in voting systems.

Mississippi remains at the bottom of the nation for the lack of access that it provides to citizens for voting. Anti-quoted systems such as the lack of on line voter registration, lack of early voting programs, and an absentee voting system that requires notarization of the application and ballot.

The COVID-19 pandemic made these issues even worse. Many states implemented ballot drop programs and other efforts to ensure the safety of both voters and Election officials. Mississippi could have used this urgent health crisis to rise to the occasion and put the health of its citizens first. But we did not. Instead, we passed legislation allowing individuals who contracted the virus or were care givers to use this as an excuse to vote by absentee ballot. This caused more confusion for citizens and election workers who then had to put their own health at risk to provide ballots for individuals with the virus.

This is voter suppression. Incidents like these continue to display themselves in various forms that make it more difficult for people to vote. Among the top of the list of those concerns are voter purging, confusion regarding polling places and the lack of adequate election equipment.

Citizens of Sunflower County continue to witness these incidents of voter suppression. During every election cycle, citizens are purged off voter rolls, denied their right to receive assistance while voting, and sent to different voting precincts. We deserve a fair voting process that's handled with integrity.

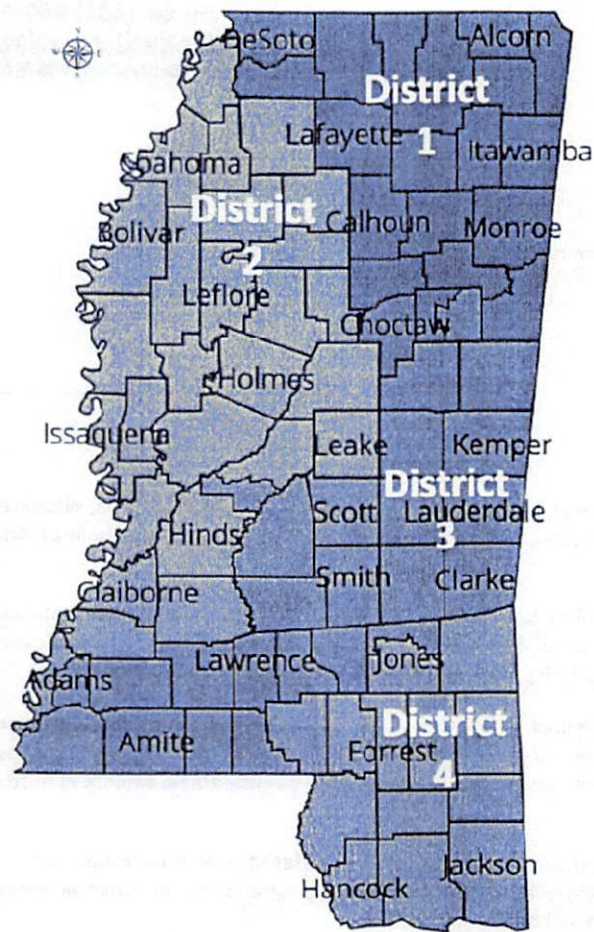
The development of fair political boundaries at the local, state and federal level can help us to improve our election process by developing districts that keep our communities together and are transparent, which includes keeping the boundaries of Congressional District 2 the same.

SDT-SJLCRR-000269

JTX-026-047

REDISTRICTING RECOMMENDATION MAP: CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS MS 2021

Map: ver 2021-CONGRESS-v3 Date: 08/10/2021



District	Population	Deviation
Un	0	0
1	746,062	-43
2	746,164	59
3	746,077	-28
4	746,115	10

District Details		
1		
Total Population 2019		
Pop	%	
Total	746,062	100.0%
White	498,454	66.8%
Hispanic	25,268	3.4%
Black	211,404	28.3%
Asian	8,454	1.1%
Native	3,021	0.5%
Pacific	812	0.1%
Citizen VAP 2019		
Pop	%	
Total	559,222	100.0%
White	390,086	69.9%
Hispanic	9,500	1.8%
Black	151,839	27.2%
Asian	2,492	0.7%
Native	2,193	0.4%
Pacific	98	0.0%

District Details		
2		
Total Population 2019		
Pop	%	
Total	746,164	100.0%
White	228,137	30.6%
Hispanic	15,953	2.1%
Black	499,320	66.9%
Asian	5,160	0.7%
Native	3,955	0.5%
Pacific	258	0.0%
Citizen VAP 2019		
Pop	%	
Total	555,677	100.0%
White	185,531	33.4%
Hispanic	6,582	1.2%
Black	356,315	64.0%
Asian	2,782	0.4%
Native	2,546	0.5%
Pacific	103	0.0%

District Details		
3		
Total Population 2019		
Pop	%	
Total	746,077	100.0%
White	452,466	60.7%
Hispanic	17,406	2.3%
Black	258,016	34.6%
Asian	8,552	1.2%
Native	10,018	1.3%
Pacific	441	0.1%
Citizen VAP 2019		
Pop	%	
Total	559,650	100.0%
White	355,722	63.6%
Hispanic	5,801	1.0%
Black	187,715	33.5%
Asian	3,005	0.7%
Native	6,161	1.1%
Pacific	179	0.0%

District Details		
4		
Total Population 2019		
Pop	%	
Total	746,115	100.0%
White	516,370	69.2%
Hispanic	32,555	4.4%
Black	183,575	24.6%
Asian	15,755	2.1%
Native	7,259	1.0%
Pacific	1,251	0.2%
Citizen VAP 2019		
Pop	%	
Total	558,541	100.0%
White	401,350	71.9%
Hispanic	15,472	2.8%
Black	126,303	22.6%
Asian	7,871	1.4%
Native	4,732	0.8%
Pacific	130	0.0%

Population			Shapes		Partisan Lean			Demographics (CVAP)								
D	Total	+/-			Dem	Rep	OTH	Total	White	Minority	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Native	Pacific	
Un	0				0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
1	746,062	-0.01%			35.00%	65.00%	0.00%	558,422	65.86%	30.14%	1.77%	27.19%	0.66%	0.41%	0.32%	
2	746,164	0.01%			65.49%	34.51%	0.00%	555,677	32.41%	66.59%	1.18%	64.52%	0.41%	0.48%	0.22%	
3	746,077	0.00%			36.98%	63.02%	0.00%	559,650	62.56%	37.44%	1.04%	33.34%	0.70%	1.10%	0.33%	
4	746,115	0.00%			30.41%	69.59%	0.00%	558,541	71.90%	28.10%	2.76%	22.97%	1.41%	0.85%	0.32%	
The Norm Ideal Pop	746,109	0.01%			42.61%	57.39%	0.00%	558,098	59.72%	40.28%	1.69%	37.02%	0.80%	0.71%	0.32%	

Notes

- The 0.01% population deviation is within the 0.75% threshold tolerated by the courts.
- Three districts lean Republican, one leans Democratic, and none fall in the 45-55% competitive range.
- There is one majority-minority district.

This Map was created by the Tunica County Redistricting Committee with technical assistance from Melvin Young - CDDAGIS Consulting, Inc. cdagis@tunica.com Tel.: 601-559-2476 or 662-541-2222. The Districting and Data Platform is provided by DRA7020.

#FairDistricts!

CDDAGIS

SDT-SJLCRR-000270

JTX-026-048